



# **Migration for Birth**

**A Birth-Origin Study of Texas Newborns  
January-December 2001**

**Center for Health Statistics**

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Considerable savings in data collection have resulted from using Texas Department of Health live birth statistics. The Center for Health Statistics is indebted to the Bureau of Vital Statistics for use of the calendar year 2001 birth records upon which this report is based. This cooperation and service are gratefully acknowledged.



We welcome your comments and suggestions for future issues of this report. Please feel free to call or write to us.

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# The 2001 *Migration for Birth* Report

The Center for Health Statistics publishes the *Migration for Birth* report on an annual basis to profile where women choose to give birth in the state of Texas and to provide information on how hospitals and other birthing facilities are utilized by obstetrical patients. This report tabulates birth migration information by mother's residence and by birth occurrence for each Texas county.

The *Migration for Birth* report is compiled with two objectives. The first is to identify areas where services are present or where Texas residents may be underserved by showing general utilization patterns of obstetrical services throughout the state. The second objective is to provide specific local and regional information about potential preferences for obstetrical services by identifying where county residents are giving birth.

The number of births for any one county is a composite picture comprised of residents who give birth within the county, women who travel into the county from other counties to give birth (*in migration for birth*), and county residents who travel to other counties to give birth (*out migration for birth*). Women leaving their county of residence to give birth can be viewed in two ways. From the perspective of their county of residence, they are *out migrants*. From the point of view of the county of birth, they are *in migrants*.

This report provides details about both types of migration. For each county, the number of births to women who reside in the county but give birth in another county is listed under '*out migration*' by the women's county of destination. Births to women in a county other than where they reside are listed under '*in migration*' for the women's county of destination. The percent of births occurring in and outside of hospitals is also given for each county.

The service ratio for each county is also reported. The service ratio is the relationship between the number of births occurring within a county to its residents and the total number of births to its residents:

$$\frac{\text{Number of births occurring within county to county residents}}{\text{Total number of births to county residents}} * 100$$

For counties with obstetrical services, the service ratio can be seen as a measure of the 'retention power' of those services. The service ratio is reported as zero for counties where all resident births occurred outside the home county.

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